

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /077 W

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R 291343Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1763

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 1066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EG, FR, IZ, YS

SUBJECT: ORLY TERRORISTS

1. FRENCH COUNSELOR HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF FLIGHT OF AIR FRANCE BOEING 707 CARRYING ORLY TERRORISTS. COUNSELOR WAS PRESENT WITH HIS AMBASSADOR AND MINTRADE SEGARD DURING LATE NIGHT TELEPHONE CONTACTS WITH GOE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF AIRCRAFT LANDING IN EGYPT.

2. AFTER INITIAL TOUCH DOWN IN BAGHDAD, BOTH GOE AND FRENCH EMBASSY CAIRO BECAME AWARE THAT AIRCRAFT WAS APPROACHING EGYPTIAN AIR SPACE. SADAT ORDERED PLANE SHOULD NOT LAND IN EGYPT. SUBSEQUENTLY FRENCH EMBASSY LEARNED (PRESUMABLY FROM FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD AND AIR FRANCE PILOT) THAT PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS HELD GUN TO CREW AND TOLD THEM THEY MUST NOT LAND IN "SADAT'S EGYPT". FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS WHILE AIRCRAFT WAS ACTUALLY IN EGYPT'S

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AIR SPACE, BUT WAS AWARE THAT PILOT WAS IN STATE OF EXHAUSTION.

HE ATTEMPTED CONTACT SADAT IN ASWAN UNSUCCESSFULLY. HE CALLED FONMIN FAHMY WHO ULTIMATELY AGREED, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF PILOT'S EXHAUSTION, THAT PLANE MIGHT LAND NOT RPT NOT IN CAIRO, BUT IN LUXOR.

3. AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER, DID NOT REQUEST LANDING IN EGYPT BUT CONTINUED TO ETHIOPIA WHERE IT WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND. ADEN FLIGHT TOWNER REPORTED LOSS OF CONTACT WITH PLANE AND FRENCH BELIEVED FOR SOME TIME THAT AIRCRAFT HAD CRASHED. WHEN PLANE FINALLY RETURNED TO IRAQ, IT CIRCLED OVER BAGHDAD WITH 15-30 MINUTES FUEL. PILOT HAD BEEN FLYING FOR TEN HOURS TOTAL. FRENCH AMBASSADOR WENT DIRECTLY TO GOI VP SADDAM TO APPEAL FOR PERMISSION TO LAND, WHICH SADDAM GRANTED.

4. COMMENT: REPORT THAT PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS REFUSED TO LAND IN EGYPT IS ONE MORE INDICATION OF SADAT'S RISING UNPOPULARITY WITH RADICAL PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS WHO DEEPLY RESENT HIS ME POLICY AND MISTRUST EXTENT OF HIS COMMITMENT TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PINS, EG, FR, IZ, YS, (SADAT, ANWAR)
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